



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit : 1621
Examiner : A. Siegel
Serial No. : 09/648,248
Filed : August 25, 2000
Inventors : Masashi Kato
: Yasuharu Kato
: Koichi Okada
Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING
: AROMATIC COMPOUND
: ISOMERS



22469

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket: 1382-00

Dated: May 14, 2002

AMENDMENT

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated November 15, 2001, using clean copies of the Claims and also a marked-up version of such, kindly amend the Application as follows:

In the Claims (Clean copy as amended)

1. (Amended) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing impurities from it by a method selected from distillation, purging, or absorption to a solid absorbent to achieve a level below 1,000 ppm by weight, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

7. (Amended) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing oxygen-containing or high boiling point compound impurities from it by a method selected from distillation, purging, or absorption to a solid absorbent to